Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Funding Advisory Council Preliminary Recommendations as of December 2013

(changes since September 2013 noted in red)

Free and Discounted Licenses

Retain the following in recognition of service:

- 1) Free and reduced cost licenses for military service members and disabled veterans
- 2) Free big game combo/sportsman licenses for landowners participating in the block management program
- Agreement allowing CSKT to retain license fees paid on the reservation to fund the CSKT tribal wildlife management program (87-1-228, MCA)

Alter the following:

Youth

Consolidate pricing from three age groups to two. (Current age groups are: under 12, 12-15, and 16-17)

1) Fishing licenses for residents:

Under Age 12

Free

Age 12-17

Discounted at 50% of full-priced license

2) Fishing licenses for nonresidents

Under Age 12

Free

Age 12-17

Discounted at 50% of full-priced license

3) Hunting licenses for residents and nonresidents

Under Age 12

N/A

Age 12-17

Discounted at 50% of full-priced license

4) Repeal free sportsmans license for first-time resident youth hunters

Seniors

- 1) There's consensus to recommend increasing the age at which seniors are eligible for discounted licenses to age 70. Currently, licenses are discounted at 62 years of age.
- 2) There's concensus to recommend altering senior discounted licenses so that they are priced at 50% of the full-priced license fee. Free licenses would no longer be available.

Disabled

- There's concensus to recommend altering discounted licenses for the disabled so that they are priced at 50% of the full-priced license fee. Free licenses would no longer be available.
- 2) The Advisory Council may recommend that the Fish and Wildlife Commission review and consider making changes to the definition of "disabled" in agency rule.
- 3) The Advisory Council may consider a recommendation that FWP charge a fee for the permit to hunt from a vehicle.

Nonresidents

Reprice the "Come Home to Hunt" (87-2-526, MCA) and "Nonresident Relative of a Resident" (87-2-514, MCA) licenses so that they are both priced at 50% of the equivalent full-priced nonresident license. Currently "Come Home to Hunt" licenses are full-priced and "Nonresident Relative of a Resident" licenses are four times the resident price.

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Other

- 1) Convert the license funding model to a four-year decision cycle instead of a roughly 10-year cycle.
- 2) Create a base hunting license (price yet to be determined) for archery and firearm seasons that would be a prerequisite to purchasing individual species tags. This would replace the existing archery stamp. Hunters could purchase the archery option, the firearm option, or both. There would be no price discount for both.
- 3) Do not alter the B-10 nonresident big game combination license or the B-11 nonresident deer combination license.
- 4) Increase nonresident moose, mountain sheep, mountain goat, and bison license prices to \$1500 each.
- 5) Offer a one-day nonresident fishing license that may be purchased multiple times instead of other short-term fishing licenses